

# MILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

**121 Union Street  
Milton, Delaware 19968  
(302) 684-8856**

The Milton Public Library was organized in January 1875 and was housed in Welch's Drug Store. Initially, the library consisted of just one bookcase of 200 volumes. The library became part of the Milton Century Club in 1913 and was relocated into the J.O.A.M. Building, with Miss Agnes Lacy serving as the first librarian. At this time, books were donated by members and the membership fee was \$1 per year.

After moving for a brief period to the Palmer Building, the library relocated again in 1920 to the Odd Fellows Building. The library and the Century Club worked closely together with Club members serving on the library commission and working as librarians. As years went by, the townspeople of Milton continued to support the library on a volunteer basis. When the school districts combined and the new Cape Henlopen District emerged, the library became a tax-supported public library with a total annual budget of \$7,100.

During the last part of the century, the library has seen many changes. The new Milton Public Library on Union Street was dedicated on July 22, 1980. Additions include the Governor's Room (1987) for meetings, programs and other activities; the Conwell Room (1990) for additional meeting space; and a Toddlers Room (1991). Disaster struck during 1993 when the library was forced to close due to damage from the Union Street bridge replacement. Library services were provided for almost a year in the Milton Civic Center Building with the library reopening in September 1994.

The Milton Public Library has grown dramatically from its humble beginnings of 1875. The library boasts a circulation of more than 47,000 from a base collection of more than 24,000 library materials. In addition, the library offers HOLLINET, an integrated automated library system which provides county-wide access to materials and on-line data-bases. Programs for adults and children, space for tutoring and meetings, computers, orientation programs, and library tours for school-age children can all be found at the Milton Public Library.

## Key Individuals

The original officers of the Milton Library Association included: President *John Cord Hazzard*; Vice President *Noah W. Megee*; Secretary *John Ponder*; Treasurer *Dr. James A. Hopkins*. *Mary Catherine Hopkins* has served as director since 1989 when *Ruth Marvel* retired. The first president of the Friends of the Milton Public Library was *Charles Fleetwood*.